



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



\$1.6 BILLION IN HURRICANE AID TO OPEN SCHOOLS, EDUCATE STUDENTS

June 12, 2006

"We wanted to get the funds into states' hands as quickly as possible, so we accelerated the application process. We used the states' own data to develop a formula to distribute the funds in the fairest way possible."

-- Secretary Margaret Spellings

Continuing a recovery process that has aided hundreds of thousands of children, the U.S. Department of Education noted that more than \$1.6 billion in funds from the Hurricane Education Recovery Act, signed by President Bush last December, has been made available to reopen schools in the Gulf Coast region and to help educate students across the country displaced or affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

- \$645 million has been provided in four installments under the **Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students (Impact Aid) Program** to assist local education agencies in 49 states and the District of Columbia in paying for the cost of educating students who were enrolled in public and non-public schools.
- \$750 million was provided under the **Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations (Restart Aid) Program** to help reopen and restart damaged schools in the states most affected by the storms.
- \$5 million was provided under the **Assistance for Homeless Youths (Homeless Aid) Program**, to help state education agencies address the needs of students displaced by the storms.
- \$200 million for institutions of higher education has been sent to affected states.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita created real and pressing educational needs in the Gulf region and nationwide.

- More than 370,000 students were unable to attend school in the weeks following the hurricanes.
- About 158,000 students were still displaced as of Oct. 1, 2005, and are eligible for Impact Aid.
- More than 1,100 schools – public, private and parochial – were still closed two weeks following the storms.
- Public and private school enrollment in New Orleans stands at about 30 percent of the pre-Katrina level.

The Department accelerated the application process in order to quickly release education-related relief.

- Dec. 22, 2005 – Congress passes the Hurricane Education Recovery Act (HERA)
- Dec. 30, 2005 – President Bush signs HERA into law
- Jan. 5, 2006 – first installment of **Restart Aid** sent to states (\$100 million for Louisiana, \$100 million for Mississippi, \$50 million for Texas, \$3.75 million for Alabama)
- Feb. 2, 2006 – deadline for states to apply for **Impact Aid** (all but Hawaii applied)
- Mar. 2, 2006 – first installment of **Impact Aid** (\$120 million) sent to states (\$35.6 million for Louisiana, \$13.6 million for Mississippi, \$35.2 million for Texas, \$5.4 million for Alabama, and \$30.2 million elsewhere); final installment of **Restart Aid** (\$496 million) sent to states (\$345 million for Louisiana, \$122 million for Mississippi, and \$28 million for Texas)
 - **Homeless Aid** (\$4.2 million) sent to Gulf Coast states

For more information, visit www.ed.gov or call 1-800-USA-LEARN.

- **March 28, 2006** –Quarter 1 adjustment to raise per-student amounts for **Impact Aid (\$39.0 million total)** sent to states (**\$11.6 million** For Louisiana, **\$4.8 million** for Mississippi, **\$10.6 million** for Texas, **\$1.8 million** for Alabama, and **\$10.2 million** elsewhere)
- **March 29, 2006** –second installment of **Impact Aid (\$159.5 million total)** sent to states (**\$51.8 million** for Louisiana, **\$21.2 million** for Mississippi, **\$45.1 million** for Texas, **\$6.4 million** for Alabama, and **\$35 million** elsewhere)
- **March 30, 2006** –third installment of **Impact Aid (\$142.3 million total)** sent to states (**\$49.6 million** for Louisiana, **\$17.4 million** for Mississippi, **\$40.7 million** for Texas, **\$5.5 million** for Alabama, and **\$29.1 million** elsewhere)
- **June 8, 2006** –House and Senate conferees approved **\$285 million** in new education relief: **\$235 million** for schools serving displaced K-12 students, and **\$50 million** in grants to institutions of higher education
- **June 9, 2006** –final installment of **Impact Act (approx. \$180 million)** to be sent to states

The aid is designed to meet the real needs of families, schools and communities.

- **Impact Aid** funds may be used to pay school personnel, to provide books and other classroom supplies, or to cover school transportation and health costs.
- **Impact Aid** funds may also be used to offer in-school or outside supplemental services such as tutoring, mentoring and counseling.
- **Restart Aid** funds may be used to recover student and personnel data; to replace or repair school district information systems; to replace instructional materials and equipment, including textbooks; to rent mobile educational units and lease space; and to recreate instructional plans and curriculum development.
- **Homeless Aid** funds may be used to identify and enroll students, to cover transportation costs, to provide school supplies, and for other purposes.
- Public, private and parochial schools may qualify for the aid.

The U.S. Department of Education and federal government continue to offer assistance to help the Gulf Coast region recover and get families back on their feet.

- **Charter School Grant** – The Department provided more than \$20 million through a special charter school grant to Louisiana to help open or reopen charter schools in order to serve the children affected by the hurricanes. This has enabled public schools in New Orleans to reopen as charter schools, expediting the children's education and the region's recovery.
- **Higher Education Help** – the Department allocated \$190 million to the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Mississippi Institutes for Higher Learning to assist colleges and universities in those states affected by the hurricanes. In addition, the Department is currently distributing over \$18 million (out of \$30 million total) in unused federal campus-based student aid funds to severely affected colleges.
- **Hurricane Help for Schools (www.hurricanehelpforschools.gov)** – This website serves as a nationwide clearinghouse resource for schools to announce their needs so Americans can help meet them. To date, more than 850 matches between donors and schools have been made since September 2005.
- **Furniture for Schools Task Force** – Since October 2005, more than 4,000 pieces of furniture and equipment totaling over \$1.5 million has been donated and shipped to schools in Mississippi and Louisiana.
- **Student Loan Forbearance** – The Department offered six months of student loan-payment forbearance for borrowers in the federal student loan programs impacted by the disaster.
- **Aid to Colleges and Universities** – Post-secondary institutions educating displaced students have received aid (up to \$1,000 per student) to help defray new and unexpected costs resulting from the hurricanes.